

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093979
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TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093979

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, HA, US

SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTEREST IN LUCIEN RIGAUD

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 1185; (B) PORT AU PRINCE 1065

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (ARA AND L) CALLED ON JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS RIGAUD CASE.

2. ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY JOHN DOWD REPORTED THAT JUSTICE
STRIKE FORCE IS STILL PURSUING ITS INVESTIGATION AND IS
NOT YET AT POINT OF ASKING THE DEPARTMENT TO INTERVENE
WITH GOH TO ALLOW RIGAUD TO TESTIFY IN THE U.S. DOWD
FURTHER REPORTED HE HAD MET TWICE WITH COUNSEL FOR THE
GOH IN THE U.S. (A MEMBER OF GOV. PEABODY'S LAW FIRM),
AT COUNSEL'S REQUEST, AND ASKED IF THE GOH COULD SUPPLY
DOCUMENTATION ON CERTAIN POINTS IN THE INVESTIGATION,
INCLUDING GOH CHARGES AGAINST RIGAUD AND ANY EVIDENCE OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 093979

HIS CULPABILITY IN THE DEATH OF HIS HOUSEBOY. COUNSEL
SAID HE WOULD SEEK INFORMATION JUSTICE REQUESTED.

3. DOWD SAID IF GOH, THROUGH CHANNEL OF COUNSEL IN THE
U.S., CAN SUPPLY NEEDED INFORMATION, OR ALTERNATIVE WIT-
NESSES, SUCH AS MAJ. CAZEAU, IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO
ASK FOR RIGAUD'S PRESENCE. BUT RIGAUD APPEARS IMPORTANT

TO JUSTICE SINCE HE WAS APPARENTLY WITNESS TO ILLEGAL ACTS.

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INFORMED JUSTICE OF THE GOH'S STRONG POSITION AGAINST ALLOWING RIGAUD TO LEAVE AND VARIOUS FACTORS BEARING ON THE SITUATION IN HAITI, ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY IN REF B. FOLLOWING DOWD'S REVIEW OF CASE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES GETTING RIGAUD UP TO TESTIFY WOULD BE IMPORTANT U.S. INTEREST IN HAITI, TO BE INCORPORATED AMONG OTHER INTERESTS WE ARE PROMOTING IN THAT COUNTRY. JUSTICE OFFICIALS IN TURN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS U.S. INTERESTS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED, AND INDICATED IF THEY DO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IT WILL BE AFTER CAREFUL WEIGHING OF NEED. VANCE

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